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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

BARNSTAPLE:
W. ERNEST HILL, PRINTER, HIGH STREET.

The Castle,

Barnstaple,

May, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Barnstaple Town Council.*

Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present this
my 25th Annual Report on the Health and
Sanitary Administration of the Borough for
the year 1937.*

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT C. JONAS,

M.D., B.S., Lond.

M. O. H. Barnstaple.

List of Staff.

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

PART-TIME OFFICERS :—

H. C. JONAS, M.D., B.S., Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health

R. M. J. HARPER, M.D., B.S., M.A., Oxon.

School Medical Officer

T. TICKLE, B.Sc., F.I.C.

...

Public Analyst

WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector

W. WHITFIELD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector

Miss M. S. BRIMLOW, S.R.C.N.

School Nurse

Mrs. LIDSTONE

...

...

Midwife

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (estimate of resident population mid 1937)					14,710
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	4,329
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£98,589
Produce of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£384

Vital Statistics.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	86	86	172
	Illegitimate	7	2	9
				181

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12·3

		Males.	Females.	
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	1	3	} Total 4
	Illegitimate	0	0	

RATE per 1,000 total (live and still births) ... 21·62

	Males.	Females.	Total.
DEATHS	115	108	123

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15·16

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	—
Other Puerperal Causes	0	

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

The Local Death Rate is shown corrected by the Areal Comparability Factor, viz. :—80.

Rate per 1,000 population.			Death Rate per 1,000 (cor- rected)	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	12·30	0·27	12·12	94	0
England and Wales	14·90	0·60	12·40	58	5·8

Infant Mortality.

The following table gives the quinquennial rates from 1904 to 1933 inclusive, and the annual rates for 1934, 1935, 1936 and 1937.

1904—1908	126.15
1909—1913	89.68
1914—1918	71.90
1919—1923	57.46
1924—1928	68.08
1929—1933	44.19
1934	50.84
1935	78.53
1936	43.27
1937	93.92

Deaths of Infants under one year.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	6	9	15
Illegitimate	...	...	2	0	2
					—
					17
					—
RATE per 1,000 live births	...			93.92	
Legitimate infants per 1,000	...			87.20	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000	...			222.22	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...			21	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...			0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				0	
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2)	...			0	

The following table gives the number of deaths from various diseases with the comparative figures for the previous five years and the five-yearly average for the sake of comparison.

Year.	Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.
1932	5	7	27	17
1933	8	5	28	10
1934	1	11	23	8
1935	1	5	23	8
1936	2	7	25	17
Average	3.4	7	25.2	10

1937	20	12	21	9
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There was an increase in the number of infectious cases during the year compared with previous years as the following table shows.

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.
1932	...	10	23	2
1933	...	7	7	1
1934	...	8	8	2
1935	...	11	2	1
1936	...	2	0	1*
1937	...	20	9	1*

*These cases were contracted outside the district.

In connection with the widespread epidemic of Sonne type Dysentery which occurred during the latter part of the year, 19 cases were notified all of which were positive to Bacteriological examination. Diarrhoea accompanied by vomiting was very prevalent at the same time.

The outbreak led the Department to have samples of the main water supply taken, with a view to ascertaining whether or not there was any difference between that supplied on the the low level main and the high level main. No difference was found, but some unsatisfactory samples resulted in the Department requesting the Water Company to instal chlorinating plant at the Waterworks. This work was put in hand after a report being made by a Water Specialist.

Social Conditions.

The principal industries in Barnstaple are Lace Net, Pottery, Furniture-Making and Gloving (Leather and Fabric).

Cabinet-Making and wood working continues in a satisfactory position.

There has been some short time in the Lace Net and Gloving industries.

The Manager of the local Employment Exchange has very kindly furnished the following information with respect to the average numbers of persons on the Unemployment Register for each month during 1937.

Men.		Women.		Boys.	Girls.
W.U. & Cas.	T.S.	W.U. & Cas.	T.S.		
514	74	65	55	10	13
517	48	74	47	16	17
379	27	65	18	7	12
355	12	23	5	9	2
292	22	16	29	9	2
284	19	17	14	3	3
360	23	21	23	4	4
403	26	45	19	4	6
456	28	41	19	5	6
564	33	47	18	6	7
604	51	53	15	5	7
590	36	52	9	6	8
Av. 443	33	43	22	7	7

W.U.—Wholly Unemployed.

T.S.—Temporary Stoppages.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Staff.

(The list of Officers is included at the front of this report).

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

No provision is made by the Local Authority. Three district nurses are provided by voluntary organizations.

Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford which serves the town as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. 7 cases of Scarlet Fever and 6 of Diphtheria were treated there.

Midwives.

Eight are working in the area.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Devon C.C. at Exeter and continue to be of the greatest service to the Local Authority and the Medical Profession in the Borough.

Clinics.

The School Clinic and Welfare Centre continue to do good work at their premises at Boutport Street.

The School Medical Officer is in charge and Mrs. Inder is responsible for the School Dental Clinic.

The Orthopædic Clinic has a session there at least one day a week.

The V.D. Clinic.

Is held at the Dorth Devon Infirmary Annex. There are Two Sessions held every Friday.

Women	...	...	5-30 p.m.
Men	...	...	6-30 "

Ambulance Services.

There is a Motor Ambulance for the removal of infectious cases, stationed at the Hospital at Bideford.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to be of great service to the District. During the year the question of a grant has been under consideration by both the Borough Council and the Barnstaple Rural District Council and there is every possibility that a grant will be made.

The Barnstaple Corporation continues to provide free headquarters for the Brigade.

Swimming Bath.

There is a Municipal Open-air Swimming Bath situated in Rock Park. It is constructed of re-inforced concrete. The length is 100ft., the width 30ft. and the capacity 117,000 gallons. It has a modern Pressure Filtration Plant and the whole of the water in the bath passes through the filters every six hours.

The water is first treated with alumina, then passes through the sand pressure filter and is neutralised by mixing with soda ash in solution, is aerated and finally dosed with chlorine gas which eliminates all harmful bacteria, so ensuring absolutely pure and crystal clear water.

The filtration plant is housed at a depth of 15 feet below the entrance. The bath has up-to-date equipment including diving platforms ranging in height from three to fifteen feet. There are two terraces for the accommodation of spectators.

Samples of water were taken at monthly intervals and the results given below are regarded as very satisfactory and show that the plant works efficiently.

Month.	Bacillus Coli.	Organisms growing on agar 2 days at 37°c.	Organisms growing on agar 3 days 20°c.
July ...	Absent in 100 c.c.	52 per c.c.	30 per c.c.
August ...	Absent in 100 c.c.	0 per c.c.	2 per c.c.
September	Absent in 100 c.c.	105 per c.c.	300 per c.c.

All the samples were taken at the end of a day when good use had been made of the bath.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Castle,
Barnstaple,
April, 1938.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you this my Seventeenth Annual Report on the administrative work carried out during the year 1937.

The routine work of the Public Health Department has been carried out without record to the service of any statutory notices. This is sufficient proof that there has been no friction and that the work has proceeded in the usual quiet but successful manner. Thanks are due to Mr. Whitfield for his loyal support during the year, and the manner in which he discharges his duties is a credit to the office.

Another record number of visits were made—4,544 which is an increase of 135 over last year.

Nuisances were abated and repairs or improvements carried out at 309 premises which is an increase of 105 over 1936.

406 Preliminary Notices were served and 134 verbal instructions were given. In addition 493 letters, etc., were written.

72 Complaints were received. The following list will show their varied nature.

9 Condition of Premises.	1 Alleged Nuisance from
5 Rubbish Deposited.	Pigs and Cattle.
2 Accumulations.	1 Septic Tank.
3 Rats.	6 Burning Rubbish.
1 Smell in Bedroom.	1 Fumes from Oil Engine.
1 Depositing contents of	11 Choked Drains.
earth closet in stream.	1 Men sleeping in a tent.
1 Marine Store.	1 Beetles.
7 Bugs.	2 Smell.
1 Smell from Piggery.	1 Defective Wash Boiler.
2 Sewage flowing on to	5 Smoke from Chimneys.
land.	2 Ants.
3 Keeping Dogs.	1 Keeping Bad Fish.
1 Smell from Manured	1 Smell from W.C. Pan.
Land.	1 Defective Pump.
1 Defective W.C. Cistern.	

Each case was thoroughly investigated and in every case where it has been possible to take action under Public Health Law abatement of the nuisances has been obtained.

The drains of 17 houses were renewed and repairs carried out in 42 instances. 272 tests were applied.

508 Houses were measured under the Housing Act, the permitted number for each house ascertained and the necessary certificates supplied to the owners. When the houses are measured, all defects are recorded and the necessary notices served on the owners to carry out repairs.

Schools.

There are twelve Public Elementary Schools, one Grammar School and one occupation centre, all of which are provided with suitable and adequate sanitary arrangements.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two Common Lodging Houses which have been duly licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936.

Accommodation is provided for 32 persons, as follows :—

No. 1	...	18 Males.
No. 2	...	14 Males.

Bed Bugs.

The Local Authority own 170 houses occupied and suitable for occupation by persons of the working classes and in only one instance was the existence of vermin reported, and in this case the house was fumigated with satisfactory results.

In connection with the removal of tenants to new Council houses from dwellings which were condemned as unfit for human habitation no cases were found to be bug infested.

37 Rooms in houses other than Council houses were sprayed with liquid insecticide after tenants had reported the presence of bugs to the Health Department. This work is invariably carried out by the Local Authority, as by so doing the tenants are encouraged to come to the Health Department where they can rely on getting help and guidance.

In 8 instances occupiers who were troubled with beetles were supplied with a powder which was made up by the Sanitary Inspectors who gave instructions on the correct method of using it. In every case a satisfactory result was obtained.

Water Supply.

The Barnstaple Water Company supply the whole of the district with a direct service with the exception of 35 houses. These houses are supplied with water as set out below.

- 11 Single houses each with its own well and pump.
 - 2 Single houses each with water obtained from spring and piped to house.
 - 2 Houses obtain water from same well which is piped to houses.
 - 3 Houses obtain water from same well which is piped to houses.
 - 3 Pairs of houses each pair obtaining water from same well with pump.
 - 4 Single houses each with private reservoir with water piped to houses.
 - 7 Houses obtain water from the same well with pump.
- In every case the supply is adequate.

The Barnstaple Water Company are making provision to Chlorinate the whole of the public supply, as a result of investigation by the Department, of an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Two S.D. Freighters are used for the collecting of House and Trade Refuse. No. 1 vehicle has been in service for 6 years and No. 2 for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. No. 1 Freighter collects practically all the trade refuse and assists in the collection of house refuse on two days in each week. No. 2 Freighter is engaged almost the whole time on house refuse collection. The separate collection of trade refuse instituted during 1936 has continued to be a success.

During the financial year ended March, 1938, the following figures were returned :—

	No. 1.	No. 2.	Total.
Number of Loads—			
House 418 }	968	House 1196 }	2217
Trade 550 }		Trade 53 }	
Miles Travelled—	4613	6256	10869
Gallons of Petrol used—	730	961	1691
Miles per gallon—	6.3	6.5	6.4

In comparison with the year 1936-1937, 183 more loads were collected and 126 more miles travelled whilst 99 less gallons of petrol were used. The average miles per gallon increased by '4.

All receptacles are required to be placed on the kerbside or other safe accessible position by occupiers, for in many instances dustbins have to be carried through houses owing to the absence of secondary means of access—a very unsatisfactory and undesirable condition.

The weight of **house refuse** collected during the year was 2,673 tons (estimated by weighing the whole of the refuse collected during one week in each quarter). This is an increase of 8 tons on last year. Additional houses naturally means more refuse, but the continual increase in the use of electricity and gas for heating and cooking results in lighter but more bulky refuse.

The weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days to the year) was 9.96 cwts., which is exactly the same as last year, and the quantity of refuse produced by each house per annum was approximately 12.34 cwts.

Trade Refuse was collected from 195 premises and the approximate amount was 548 tons. For this service the sum of £274 was received which is an increase over last year of £16.

The total cost of the Refuse Collection Service was £1,327. An income of £274 was received, giving a nett cost of £1,053.

An analysis of the house refuse has been made from time to time and the following is a reasonable average :—

	Percentage by weight.		
Fine dust content (under $\frac{1}{4}$ ")	...	...	22.517
Cinder content ($\frac{1}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ")	...	...	23.722
Vegetable and Putrescible content	...	...	27.256
Paper content	...	...	10.061
Metal content-- (i.) Metal containers	...	...	3.346
(ii.) Other metals	...	...	1.813
Rag content, including bagging and all textiles	...	...	1.668
Glass content--bottles and jars	...	...	5.101
Bone and Skin content	...	...	0.489
Combustible debris not classified above--straw, leather, etc.	...	...	2.189
Incombustible debris not classified above--bricks, pottery, etc.	...	...	1.838
			100.000

Trade refuse has not been analysed, but there is no doubt that by weight the paper content must average 85 to 90 per cent. The remainder is composed of straw, wood, tins, other metals and some ash and clinker from bakehouses. The offensive content of trade refuse consists of fish waste and cleanings from butchers and greengrocers premises.

Disposal of all refuse is by means of "controlled tipping," and as the present site will be filled in about two years the future method of disposal must be considered shortly. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining adequate and suitable covering material. By arrangement with the County Surveyor 768 loads of soil were received within two weeks. The cost of this soil delivered was approximately 10d. per 2 ton load. In order to deal with such a quantity of soil additional labour was required at the tip which increased the cost to 1/6 per load.

To receive a regular supply of soil would be the most satisfactory arrangement, but this material is not always available, even when excavations are in progress.

The total cost of refuse disposal was £294.

For both collection and disposal services the nett cost was £1,347 giving the following unit figures :—

		Collection. £	Disposal. £	Total. £
Gross Expenditure	...	1327	294	1621
Gross Income	...	274	...	274
Nett Cost		1053	294	1347
Nett cost per ton (House and Trade Refuse)	...	6s. 6 4/1.	1s. 9 9/1d.	8s. 4 3/1d.
Nett ditto (excluding loan charges payment on vehicle)		5s. 1 1/1d.	1s. 9 9/1d.	6s. 11 0/1d.
Nett cost per 1,000 population		£71 5/8	£20	£91 5/8
Nett cost per 1,000 premises		£232 7	£54 9/7	£297 6/7
Rate in the £				3 5 pence.

Meat and Food Inspection.

2,033 Visits of Inspection were made to Slaughterhouses, Butchers Shops and other Food Shops where food is prepared or sold for human consumption, and in most cases the premises are found in a satisfactory condition.

27,046 Food Animals were slaughtered in the Borough during the year as follows :

	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Public Abattoir ...	1137	116	2988	2727
Private Slaughterhouses (6)	786	310	17837	1145
	1923	426	20823	3872

About 71 per cent. of the Sheep killed are sent to London.

The number of animals is 2,879 less than last year. This is entirely due to Sheep, as the Beasts have increased by 115, Calves by 10 and Pigs by 952. In addition to the fact that less Sheep were sent to London more imported mutton is now being sold in the retail shops. 44 per cent. of the mutton consumed in the town and 58 per cent. beef is imported.

The number of animals dealt with at the Public Abattoir continues to increase as the following table will show :—

Year.	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1933	897	96	3397	1395
1934	1002	131	3169	1618
1935	1004	136	2962	1493
1936	1094	119	3295	1736
1937	1137	116	2988	2727

There is no doubt that the improvement which was carried out two years ago giving better facilities for the scalding and dressing of pigs has been responsible for the increase of 1,000 pigs during the year.

In last year's report it was mentioned that a further improvement would be carried out giving better accommodation for the penning of beasts prior to slaughter, and for the bleeding to be done on the rail. Unfortunately this work has been held up, and in consequence the consumers are not getting the benefit which it was hoped such improvement would have afforded.

37 Licences were issued to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

The following is a list of the Meat, etc., condemned as diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption, together with the reasons for condemnation.

Article.	No, etc.	Reason for Condemnation.
Carcases of Beef	17	11 Generalised Tuberculosis 2 John's Disease with Emaciation. 1 Moribund. 1 Septicaemia. 2 Emaciation.
Cows Heads	33	32 Tuberculosis. 1 Actinomycosis.
Hind Quarter of Beef	1	Peritonitis.
Fore Quarters of Beef	9	Tuberculosis.
Beef	401 lbs.	Injury.
Beef	87 lbs.	Tuberculosis
Carcases of Veal	4	2 Tuberculosis. 1 White Scours. 1 Moribund.
Side of Veal	1	Injury.
Carcases of Mutton	45	26 Emaciation. 1 Decomposition. 3 Moribund. 8 Inflammatory Condition. 3 Hydraemia. 3 Injury. 1 Abscess with Emaciation.
Fore Quarters of Mutton	8	2 Pleurisy. 1 Inflammatory Condition. 3 Abscesses. 2 Injury.
Side of Mutton		Injury.
Mutton	76 lbs.	46 lbs. Injury. 24 lbs Inflammatory Condition. 6 lbs. Pleurisy.
Carcases of Pork	15	2 Pleurisy and Peritonitis. 2 General Inflammation. 9 Tuberculosis. 1 Septic Peritonitis. 1 Hydraemia.
Hind Quarters of Pork	3	2 Tuberculosis. 1 Injury.
Fore Quarters of Pork	2	Pleurisy.
Pork	138 lbs.	Injury.
Pigs Heads	452	450 Tuberculosis. 2 Abscesses.
Offals	4976 lbs.	Various.
Potatoes	58 lbs.	Rotten.
Jellied Veal	8 tins	Decomposition.
Fruit	4 tins	Blown.
Lobsters	27 lbs.	Decomposition.
Prawns	42 lbs.	Decomposition.
Salt Fish	112 lbs.	Decomposition.

Total weight condemned :—

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
11	19	2	10

All of which was voluntarily surrendered.

6·4 per cent. of Bovines (calves excepted) were found to be affected with Tuberculosis in some degree against 5·2 per cent. in 1936 and 7 per cent. in 1935.

11·9 per cent. of Pigs showed Tubercular lesions against 10 per cent. in 1936 and 9·45 per cent. in 1935.

The following table gives the extent of Tuberculosis found in Bovine Animals :—

			Cows.	Heifers.	Oxen.	Calves.
Whole Carcases ...	...	...	8	3	...	2
Hind Quarters and Lungs ...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Hind Quarters; Lungs and Liver ...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Fore Quarters and Lungs ...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Fore Quarters, Lungs, Liver & Diaphragm	...	...	1	...	...	...
Fore Quarters, Lungs, Liver, Head and Stomach	...	...	5	...	...	...
Lungs only ...	...	...	38	4	5	...
Lungs and Liver ...	...	...	9	...	2	2
Lungs and Stomach	...	...	...	1	...	...
Liver only ...	...	...	3	...	1	...
Lungs, Liver and Stomach	...	...	2	...	...	...
Lungs, Liver and Diaphragm	...	...	1	1	...	...
Lungs, Liver, Diaphragm & Stomach	...	...	1	...	...	...
Lungs and Diaphragm	...	...	...	1	...	...
Head only ...	...	...	11	3	5	...
Head and Lungs	...	...	6	1	1	...
Head, Liver and Lungs	...	...	4	1	2	...

The following table shows the carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1231	692	426	20·825	3872
Number inspected	1231	692	426	6·006	3872
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	2	4	2	45	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	203		1	82	136
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	10·8%		·7%	2 1%	3·6%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcasses Condemned ...	3	8	2	...	9
Carcasses on which some part or organ was condemned ...	29	83	2	...	451
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2·6%	13·15%	1%	...	11·9%

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

The following list shows the number of Cowsheds and Dairies within the Borough, together with the number of retailers and wholesale producers of milk.

Retailers who have Cowsheds and Dairies in the Borough	...	...	...	...	21
Retailers with Dairy only—non producers	...				12
Retailers whose premises are situated outside the district	...	...	...	...	22
Retailers with Dairy within the District and who have Cowsheds outside	...	...	...		6
Retailer without a Dairy—non producer	...				1
Retailers with Cowshed and Dairy in the District and are also wholesale producers	...	...			1
Retailer with Cowshed only	...	...	...		2
Wholesale producers with Cowshed and Dairy	...				2
Wholesale producer with Cowshed outside the District but with Dairy in the Borough	...				1
Farm where Butter and Cream only produced—Cowshed and Dairy	...	...	...		1

149 Inspections were made to the 26 Cowsheds and 43 Dairies situated in the Borough. Each is limewashed every six months and maintained in a satisfactory state.

All samples for bacteriological examination are taken either at the place of production or from the producers churns during delivery, so that if a milk is unsatisfactory the responsibility is entirely that of the producer.

189 Samples of Milk were taken for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory.

102 Samples were of town produced milk and of these 30 samples passed the tests and 72 failed.

87 Samples were taken from outside producers and of these 33 samples passed and 54 failed.

The following table shows the number of primary and repeat samples together with the results :—

Town Samples.				Outside Samples.		
		Primary	Repeats.	Primary.	Repeats.	
Passed Methylene Blue test		... 11	2	17	1	PASSED
Passed Blue and Coli tests		... 2	15	4	11	
Failed Methylene Blue test		... 10	9	17	4	FAILED
Failed Blue test and passed Coli		... 4	5	1	3	
Failed Blue test and failed Coli		... 3	23	2	22	
Passed Blue test and failed Coli			18	...	5	

The following analysis of the samples taken shows that of those which did not pass on the first test 30 producers accounted for 143 samples :—

Town.

5	Producers required	3	samples each	...	15
4	"	5	"	...	20
2	"	6	"	...	12
3	"	8	"	...	24
2	"	9	"	..	18
16					89

Outside.

7	Producers	required	3	samples	each	...	21
5	"	"	4	"	"	...	20
1	"	"	5	"	"	...	5
1	"	"	8	"	"	...	8
14							54

The milk supply of the town is obtained from 72 different producers as follows :—

Town producers	27
Outside producers retailing in the town ...	31
Outside producers supplying local dairymen ...	14

Until recently one dairyman delivered his milk in the carton container. Although milk bottles are becoming more popular, there are many very real advantages and few disadvantages in the carton container. When one considers that to use cartons would mean no washing, no breaking or chipping and no returns their use for milk distribution should be more seriously considered by all dairymen.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration Act), 1928.

The following table shows the samples taken during the year with the results of their examination.

	Number Taken			Results of Examination.
	Formal	Informal	Total.	
New Milk	9	...	9	*1 sample 21% deficient in fat remainder genuine.
Scald Milk	3	...	3	Genuine
Butter	7	1	8	"
Cream	4	...	4	"
Mince Meat	...	4	4	"
Jam	...	3	3	"
Totals	23	8	31	

*Samples No. 523 contained 2·37 per cent. Fat and Solids not fat 9·5 per cent. This sample was taken from a retailer the whole of whose milk is delivered in sealed bottles. The day after the formal sample was taken two informal samples were taken which on analysis showed the following results :—

Bottle No. 1. Fat 1·4 per cent. Non. fatty Solids 9·02 per cent.

Bottle No. 2. Fat 2·9 per cent. Non. fatty Solids 8·81 per cent.

This showed bad bulking at the farm. The producer was warned of this with the result that the three informal samples taken subsequently were genuine. The results were as follows :—

Mornings Milk 3·2 per cent. Fat. Solids not fat 8·95 per cent.

Evenings Milk 4·2 per cent. Fat. Solids not fat 8·63 per cent.

Mornings Milk 3·17 per cent. Fat. Solids not fat 8·82 per cent.

Of the 8 genuine samples of milk 5 were taken in June and contained an average percentage of Fat 3·44 and Solids not fat 8·71.

3 Samples were taken in September containing an average percentage of Fat 3·41 and Solids not fat 8·75.

In addition to the samples of milk sent to the Public Analyst 27 New and 3 Scald were analysed at the Sanitary Inspector's office.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were investigated :—

Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Poliomyelitis.
7	22	1 and 1 contact.

The following fumigations were carried out :—

Diphtheria ...	8	Scarlet Fever ...	23	Tuberculosis ...	26
Cancer ...	8	Nursing Homes...	17	Verminous ...	37
Infirmary ...	2	Various ...	...	3	

73 Separate lots of bedding were steam disinfected and the following is a list of the articles :—

	Mattresses.	Pillows & Bolsters.	Blankets.	Other Articles
From cases of disease in the town	82	88	40	98
From the North Devon Infirmary	75	176	46	65
From premises outside the town	5	10	4	22
St. John's Ambulance ...	...	...	2	2

7 Cases of Scarlet Fever and 6 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—*Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.*

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories	28	3	verbal
including Factory Laundries			
Workshops	20	1	2
including Workshop Laundries			
Workplaces	3	2	
Other than Outworkers' premises			
Total	51	4	4

2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : *</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	1	1		
Sanitary } insufficient	3	3		
accommo- } unsuitable or defective ...	2	2		
dation } not separate for sexes ...	1	1		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses [s. 101]				
Other offences				
[Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Power Order, 1921].				
Total	8	8		

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

HOUSING.

1. **Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :**

(1).	a.	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	266
	b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	492
(2).	a.	Number of Dwelling Houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	10
	b.	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	19
(3).		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4).		Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	260

2. **Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :**

	Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	211
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3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year :**

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	0
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding :

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	43
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	43
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	335
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	16
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	24
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	165
(d)	Cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
	Houses measured at request of owners	508
	Houses visited re overcrowding	81

10 of the 24 cases of overcrowding were relieved by granting tenancy to Council Houses.

The selection of tenants for Council Houses was left in the hands of the Public Health Department in July and 107 visits have been made to secure tenants for the various vacancies occurring.

50 New Council Houses erected under the Slum Clearance became occupied.

No. 4 Somerset Place was re-conditioned. A yard was provided and W.C. built. Larder provided and premises generally cleansed and repaired.

Nos. 5 and 6 Somerset Place were made into one house. A yard was provided, W.C. built, new drains laid, scullery trough provided. Larder provided and premises generally repaired.

Nos. 2 and 2a Priory Court were made into one through ventilated house and repaired.

Petroleum and Explosives Act.

The following Store Licences were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit only	...	...	...	...	60
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium	...	...			7
Petroleum Spirit, Carbide of Calcium and Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	...	2
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures	...	...			3
Carbide of Calcium only	...	...	...	...	2
					—
			Total	...	74
					—

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	235,396 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	2,292 lbs.
Petroleum Mixture	...	132 gallons.

The amount of fees paid to the Local Authority for the above licences was £56 10s.

The number of premises which were registered for the keeping of mixed explosives was 32.

A store licence was granted to store gunpowder and high explosives in a magazine.

THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED LIST OF SANITARY OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR, 1937.

	Public Health Acts	Housing Acts	Shops Act	Total
New Sets of House Drains Laid ...	13	4	...	17
Drains Repaired	41	1	...	42
Drains Cleared	34	...	...	34
New Interceptors Fixed	12	2	...	14
New Inspection Chambers Built ...	34	4	...	38
Fresh Air Inlets Provided	14	2	...	16
New Gullies Fixed	73	10	...	83
New Soil Pipes Fixed	15	...	...	15
New Vent Pipes Provided	26	2	...	28
Rain Pipes Repaired	11	2	...	13
Rain Pipes Disconnected from Drain ...	1	...	...	1
New Water Closets Built	13	4	...	17
New W.C. Pans Provided	81	15	...	96
New Flushing Cisterns Fixed	34	4	2	40
Flushing Cisterns Repaired	11	1	1	13
Water Closets Cleansed	6	6	2	14
New Scullery Troughs Provided	28	9	...	37
New Scullery Waste Pipes Fixed	28	11	...	39
Rooms Cleansed	99	73	2	179
Rooms Repaired	91	32	3	126
Rooms Provided with Better Light and Ventilation	14	6	...	20
Floors Renewed or Repaired	67	21	2	90
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	47	12	...	59
Windows made to Open	19	10	4	33
New Sash Cords Provided	30	13	...	43
New Windows Fixed	20	15	1	36
Yards Cemented	21	6	...	27
Yards Repaired	33	1	...	34
Dampness Remedied	23	6	1	30
Guttering Renewed or Repaired	7	13	...	20
Outside Renewed or Repaired	34	3	...	37
Back Parts Limewashed	7	7	...	14
Larders Provided	21	19	...	40
Wash Houses Cemented	2	4	...	6
Coppers Repaired	8	1	...	9
Kitchen Stoves Repaired or Renewed ...	8	1	...	9
Offensive Accumulations Removed ...	8	3	1	12
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	...	24
Smoke & Water Tests Applied to Drains	...	...	...	272
Premises where Nuisances have been Abated	...	...	...	309
Washing Facilities Provided	...	...	4	4
Separate Closet Accommodation provided	...	...	2	2
Dust Bins Provided	169	...	...	169
New Water Service Provided	6	...	...	6
Fire Grates Renewed or Repaired	6	...	...	6
New Coppers Provided	3	...	...	3
Yards Provided	1	3	...	4
Stairs Repaired	...	11	...	11
New Scullery Built	...	1	...	1
Urinal Provided to P.H.	1	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	154	24	...	178

Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	4544
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1609
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	317
Visits to other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Offensive Trade Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shops inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shops re-visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Houses inspected (Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses re-visited	„	...	...	...	...	...	19
Houses inspected (Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	256
Houses re-visited	„	...	...	...	...	...	473
Houses measured	...	...	...	...	...	...	508
Houses visited re-overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Visits to Refuse Tip	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	310	
Letters written re Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	183	493
Preliminary Notices (Public Health Acts after measuring)							290
„	„	„	„		re nuisances		34
„	„	(Housing Acts)	...	...	...		60
„	„	re Milk and Dairies	...	...	...		2
„	„	re Dust Bins	...	...	...		20
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	134

I wish to record thanks to the Chairman of the Health and Highways Committee, the members of the Council and the officials for the support and consideration afforded to me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. TUCKER,

Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-Pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5	0	0	0	0
5—10	0	0	0	0
10—15	0	0	0	0
15—20	1	0	0	0
20—25	1	2	0	0
25—35	5	2	0	0
35—45	1	1	0	0
45—55	0	4*	0	0
55—65	1	1	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	9	10	0	0

*One of these cases imported from Paignton.

AGE PERIODS.	DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1-- 5	0	0	0	0
5--10	0	0	0	0
10--15	0	0	0	0
15--20	0	0	0	0
20--25	0	0	0	0
25--35	0	2	0	0
35--45	1	0	0	0
45--55	1	0	0	0
55--65	1	1	0	0
65 and over	2	0	0	1
Totals ...	5	3	0	1

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in 1937 (excluding Tuberculosis).

31

AGE GROUPS.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Para Typhoid	Acute Poliom- yelitis	Ophth- almia Neona- torum.	Pneu- monia.	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Puer- peral Fever	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Erysip- elas	Sonne Dysent- ery	Admitted to Hospital.		DEATHS.	
												Scarlet Fever	Diphth- eria.	Scarlet Fever	Pneu- monia.
Under 1 year...	1				1	3			1			1		1	3
1 to 2 years ...						2									2
2 to 3 years ...	1					1					1				
3 to 4 years ...	1					1					1				
4 to 5 years ...	4														
5 to 10 years...	11					2									
10 to 15 years	2		1*												
15 to 20 years	1							1							
20 to 35 years				1 ^a		5	2†								
35 to 45 years						5									
45 to 65 years						11									3
65 years and over ...						5									4
TOTAL	20	9	1	1	1	35	2	1	1	5	19	7	6	1	12
NORTH WARD	10	9	...	...	...	15	...	1	...	2	5	2	6	1	3
SOUTH WARD	10	...	1*	1 ^a	1	20	2†	...	1	3	14	5	...	...	9

*Case imported from Woolacombe and notified from Nursing Home.

^aCase imported from Bideford and notified from Nursing Home.

†One case imported from Tavstock and notified from North Devon Infirmary.

Causes of Death.				M	F
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	14	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	5	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	0	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	1	0
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	1	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	11	10
Diabetes	...	...	...	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	6	7
Heart Disease	...	...	...	30	26
Aneurysm	...	...	...	0	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	7	9
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	5	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	0
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	0	0
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	0	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	0	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	0	0
Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	...	...	...	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	0
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	...	...	...	4	5
Senility	...	...	...	7	15
Suicide	...	...	...	0	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	4	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	7	4
Causes Ill-Defined or Unknown	...	...	...	0	1
Special Causes (included above)	...	...	...	...	...
Small-Pox	...	...	...	0	0
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	0	0
All Causes	...	...	...	115	108

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT C. JONAS.

